SPECIFICATION

o   On page 1, delete lines 2-4.

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 1, line 26, as follows:

In the known method, described above, the data rate of the communication uses a fallback scheme in the event of presence of interference. The data rate is reduced as this provides more robustness against background interference and channel degradation by signal reflection (~~echo's~~ echoes, delay spread, also known as inter symbol interference ISI).

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18, as follows:

This ~~invention is~~ invention may be implemented as a method for communicating at least one packet of data with a predetermined packet size over a communication channel from a transmitter to a receiver, the transmitter having a memory for storing a common set of data rates, the method comprising the steps of fragmenting the at least one packet into a number of frames with a predetermined frame size by the transmitter, automatically selecting a combination of frame size and one of the common set of data rates by the transmitter such that the transmission time of each of the frames is limited to a predefined value, and transmitting each frame over the communication channel by the transmitter.

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 4, line 29, as follows:

Fig. 1a and 1b show network situations in which [[the]] a method according to the present invention may be implemented;

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 5, line 10, as follows:

Fig. 1a shows a network situation in access point based networks, in which [[the]] a method according to the present invention may be implemented. A number of stations 2, or data communication devices, in a cell or group 4 can communicate only directly to an access point 6, e.g. via a wireless connection 3. The access point 6 forwards messages to a destination station 2 within the same cell 4, or through a wired connection 5 to another access point 6 in a further cell 8. From the further access point 6, the messages finally arrive at the destination station 2. Fig. 1b shows an ad-hoc network, in which the stations 2 communicate on a peer-to-peer level via direct communication channels 3. Both the stations 2 and the access points 6 are able to communicate bi-directionally over the communication channel 3. Most of the communication channels 3 may be formed by a wireless connection between multiple stations 2 or between a station 2 and an access point 6, as described above. Alternatively, the communication channel 3 may be implemented as a wired connection, e.g. between two access points 6.

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 5, line 23, as follows:

Fig. 2 shows a typical structure 10 of a data packet or data frame according to the IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN standard. A transmission of a data packet or frame 11 is preceded by a DCF (distributed coordination function) inter frames spacing, DIFS, 13. The data packet or frame 11 comprises a physical layer overhead 14, a.o. for ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization purposes, a medium access control (MAC) header 15, and the actual data payload 16. After receipt of the data packet 11, the receiving device will wait a predetermined period, or single inter frame

spacing SIFS 17, before sending an acknowledge frame 12 to the first device. The acknowledge frame 12 also comprises a physical layer overhead 18, a.o. for ~~synchronisation~~ synchronization purposes, and a MAC overhead 19.

o   Amend paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24, as follows:

According to the IEEE 802.11 standard, it is possible to use a fallback in data rate when packets are lost after a few attempts by retransmitting the packets, to provide more robustness against background interference and channel degradation by signal reflection, such as ~~echo's~~ echoes and or delay spread (also referenced as inter symbol interference, ISI) caused by multipath interference. Lower data rates are more robust against these types of continuous interference, and an automatic fallback and fall forward in data rate will result in a self adjusting data rate ~~behaviour~~ behavior. In non-prepublished European patent application 99302624.2, filed by applicant of the present patent application, a method for enhanced data rate control for wireless data communication is disclosed. The method selects a data rate for a communication channel 3 between first and second devices 2 having a set of common data rates by selecting an initial data rate from the set and adjusting the data rate responsive to a change in channel conditions. This method provides an auto rate control mechanism which can determine the best usable data rate for a given channel condition. The selection of an increase or decrease in data rate can be based on whether a packet is transmitted successfully or unsuccessfully, respectively.

o   Amend the Abstract beginning at page 14, line 2, as follows:

Method and device for communicating at least one packet of data with a predetermined packet size over a communication channel from a transmitter to a receiver, the transmitter having a memory for storing a common set of data rates, the method ~~comprising~~ including the steps of fragmenting the at least one packet into a number of frames with a predetermined frame size by the transmitter, automatically selecting a combination of frame size and one of the common set of data rates by the transmitter such that the transmission time of each of the frames is limited to a predefined value, and transmitting each frame over the communication channel by the transmitter.